



## 2008 Fiscal Report

### Conservation Security Program (CSP)

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. NRCS has six mission goals that include high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.

#### Vision

Productive Lands -  
Healthy Environment

#### Mission

Helping People Help the Land

*"CSP offers one of the best opportunities to inform, educate, and reward land users' stewardship efforts on their lands."*

NRCS Area Conservationist

*"The first thing we noticed was a change for the better in the grass. It made us realize we were doing the right thing."*

Landowner

 Natural Resources  
Conservation Service  
HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND  
[www.co.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov)

USDA is an Equal Opportunity  
Provider and Employer

#### CSP Program Activities

Colorado did not participate in the CSP Program in 2008.

#### The Program

CSP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working farm and ranchlands. Eligible lands include cropland, rangeland, pasture land, as well as forested land that is an incidental part of an agriculture operation.

#### Enrollment and Basic Eligibility

Participants will be enrolled in one of three tiers in the program, depending on the extent of the conservation treatment in place on their farm or ranch. Payments will be based in part on this existing conservation treatment as well as their willingness to undertake additional environmental enhancements.

- ◆ **Tier I:** the producer must have addressed water quality and soil quality to meet the minimum treatment requirements on part of the agricultural operation prior to acceptance into CSP.
- ◆ **Tier II:** the producer must have addressed water quality and soil quality to meet the minimum

treatment requirements on the entire agricultural operation prior to acceptance, and agree to address one additional resource concern by the end of the contract period.

- ◆ **Tier III:** the producer must have addressed all resource concerns to a resource management system level that meets the Field Office Technical Guide standards on the entire agricultural operation before acceptance into the program, and agree to additional enhancement activities outlined in the sign-up announcement.
- ◆ **Tier I** contracts are for 5 years; maximum payment is \$20,000 annually.
- ◆ **Tier II** contracts are for 5-10 years; maximum payment is \$35,000 annually.
- ◆ **Tier III** contracts are for 5-10 years; maximum payment is \$45,000 annually.